

# Natchez Shrapnel

*by* Bill Yarrow

I was like a bullet shot from a university tower  
toward three children crawling on a blanket  
in a faraway park. I bounced around a bit and  
landed in my life. We were all bullets shot from  
the same gun, but you landed in Natchez and I  
landed in D.C. and fragments of the rest of us can  
be found anywhere there's an Adirondack chair.

Yes, we are bullets, but we've all been hit by something  
resembling a trajectory. You most famously of all.  
"Only a flesh wound, only a flesh wound!" you cry,  
but what other kinds are there? None. No other kinds.  
Each morning, I cradle my striated pain, but it's not an  
external impairment. Foully accompanied by a cordite  
stench, it emanates from the calibrated part of me.

